

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 remain before the Examiner for reconsideration.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. Section 121:

- I. Claims 1-10, drawn to a method of increasing loading of an enzyme immobilized in a polyurethane polymer by synthesizing the polymer in a reaction mixture containing the enzyme and a surfactant, classified in class 435, subclass 182.
- II. Claims 11-30, drawn to a polyurethane polymer having increased loading of an enzyme synthesized in the presence of a surfactant, and to a method of improving enzymatic activity of a polyurethane polymer synthesized by adding a surfactant during synthesis of the polymer, classified in class 435, subclass 180.

Specifically, the Examiner asserted that:

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

The invention of I requires steps not required by the invention of II. In the invention of I, an enzyme is present in the reaction mixture used to synthesize the polymer such that the enzyme is entrapped in the polymer. In the invention of II, only a surfactant is required to be present during synthesis of the polymer, and the enzyme can be added to the polymer after synthesis such that the enzyme is not entrapped in the polymer.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant's provisionally elect Claims 1-10 of Group I with traverse.


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Applicants respectfully assert that examination of Claims 1-10 of Group I and Claims 11-30 of Group II will require examination of the same art. In the interest of expedient examination, the claims of Groups I and II should be examined together.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider his restriction requirement, and that the Examiner indicate the allowability of Claims 1-30 and arrange for an official Notice of Allowance to be issued in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

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